

Embracing change. Shaping futures.

We have compiled a list of key questions along with answers, which will help you better understand and respond to questions you receive about *ACCA Qualification – the future*.

| You want to know... | | We can let you know that... |
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| 1 | What skills will tutors need to teach Strategic Business Leader? | As with all ACCA exams, tutors will need to have sound technical knowledge as well as an exam-focused approach to their teaching. In addition, tutors will need to be able to explain the importance of professional skills, how they are relevant to the new exam and how students can demonstrate them in their answers. |
| 2 | Will a sample/specimen exam for Strategic Business Leader be available, and if so when? | Two specimen exams are already available with detailed solutions full of extra guidance, as well as comprehensive marking schemes. |
| 3 | How can we gain an insight on how answers to Strategic Business Leader should demonstrate professional skills? | The solutions to the specimen exams will be full of extra guidance on how students can demonstrate professional skills, and detailed marking guides will also be provided to these exams. |
| 4 | Will ACCA be producing any resources for tutors to support the teaching of professional skills in the new Strategic Business Leader paper? | We're producing a full range of resources and tools which will support tutors in their teaching of the new exam, many of which will focus on the professional skills that students will need to demonstrate. For instance, additional resources will be made available through ACCA's Tutor Excellence Programme to support tutors as they start to teach the new Strategic Business Leader exam. And Approved Teaching Resources offered by our Approved Content Providers for the exam will include course notes, revision notes, progress tests, mock exams and guidance, as for all ACCA exams. |
| 5 | Should tutors currently teaching P1 teach Strategic Business Leader, or should it be tutors currently teaching P3? | Tutors teaching P1 and P3 already have many of the skills and a proportion of the knowledge needed to teach the new exam. But tutors of both papers would need to upskill in terms of new technical knowledge and teaching the professional skills that are an integral part of Strategic Business Leader. |
| 6 | Will ACCA be offering any guidance to help me (as a P1 or P3 lecturer) transfer my skill set so that I can teach the new Strategic Business Leader exam? | A tutor currently teaching P1 or P3 will already have many of the skills required for teaching the new Strategic Business Leader exam. But there will be additional resources made available, which include new resources in our Tutor Excellence Programme. In particular we'll be supporting tutors in teaching the professional skills students need to demonstrate. |
| 7 | Can you suggest how tutors can get up to speed quickly with the Strategic Business Leader exam? | The two specimen exams are an ideal resource for tutors to work through, or sit under self-regulated exam conditions, as they provide a clear indication of the style of the exam, how the syllabus will be examined and how professional skills will be assessed. |

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| 8 | When will the new approved study materials (for students and for education providers) be available for Strategic Business Leader? | Our Approved Content Providers' Study Texts and Question and Answer Banks will be available by October 2017, and their Approved Teaching Resources will be available by the end of 2017 at the latest. |
| 9 | What format will the pilot take? | The pilot in June 2018 will be very small scale. We'll work with a limited number of learning providers in a few markets and use the pilot to test our systems and processes. |
| 10 | Given the introduction of new exams at Strategic Professional level, and CBE at Applied Skills level, will ACCA consider deferring the pass rate requirement for attaining ALP-Gold status? | <p>Given the consultations we have carried out and our extensive exam development processes, we do not anticipate that the changes we introduce will impact on pass rates. ACCA exams are well-known for their rigour and that level of rigour will continue.</p> <p>Our Approved Learning Partner programme aims to recognise education providers offering quality tuition and support and to provide information to students to help inform their choice of education provider. We believe the introduction of pass rate requirements for Gold ALP status is vital to ensure those aims are met.</p> |
| 11 | Do I (as a tuition provider) need to invest a lot in my system (hardware) in order to teach towards computer based exams? | Ideally students will practise on a computer if they're taking CBE and so education providers should provide appropriate facilities to enable best practice. And there are clearly business opportunities for tuition providers in offering facilities that other providers are not. Students may well have their own hardware, of course, which would allow them to practise at home, or they may be able to use a publically-available facility (e.g. internet cafe). We are, however, taking a phased introduction to CBE, and removing paper-based exams gradually only when markets are ready. |

Questions your students might ask you about ACCA Qualification – the future, and suggested responses you can give.

| Your students ask... | | You can tell them that... |
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| 1 | What does this mean for my journey through the Qualification? | Your journey to ACCA membership should continue as planned. Talk to your learning provider or use the transition tool to make the right choices and ensure you reach your goals as quickly as possible. |
| 2 | What's the impact on the current ACCA Qualification? | These changes will be introduced from October 2017 with the introduction of the Ethics and Professional Skills module. So there is no immediate impact on the current ACCA Qualification. |
| 3 | Are you going to be prepared and ready to teach the qualification when the changes are introduced? | ACCA are going to be working very closely with education providers to ensure they are fully prepared for the changes. |
| 4 | Does this mean the Qualification is easier now I have to do one less exam? | No. The quality of the ACCA Qualification continues to be world class. ACCA are not introducing changes to make it easier, but to ensure they are meeting the demands of the changing professional landscape. And to support you better in finding the right job. |

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| 5 | Does this mean the Qualification is harder now that there is a case study? | ACCA syllabus and exam experts have worked really hard to develop a case study which is achievable by all of students. And which delivers professional accountants with the right skills and abilities to meet employer demands. They'll be providing lots of learning support to ensure you're fully equipped to pass Strategic Business Leader, which will offer you a real-world experience. |
| 6 | What's different about the new Strategic Business Leader exam? | Strategic Business Leader is a case study exam so you will have the opportunity to demonstrate the integration of your technical, ethical and professional skills. Following case study methodology, it will be a single scenario with a variety of different exhibits such as financial statements, board reports and, newspapers, which you must analyse, interpret and communicate, very much like you would do in a real-world work environment. |
| 7 | Why is the new exam four hours? | Strategic Business Leader has been specifically designed to give you time to plan and prepare your answers in a professional manner. So it's not intended to be a time pressured exam. ACCA will be providing exam approach tips as part of their learning support resources. |
| 8 | What happens to my passes at the existing P level when the changes are introduced? | If you have passed both P1 and P3 before September 2018, you will be given a converted pass from the new Strategic Business Leader exam. If you have passed P2, you will be given a converted pass from the new Strategic Business Reporting exam. |
| 9 | What if I have already passed P1 and/or P3? | If you have passed only one of these exams before September 2018 you will have to attempt and pass the new Strategic Business Leader exam. |
| 10 | Will I have to do the exams at Strategic Professional level as computer based exams or as paper based exams? | As with the F5-F9 exams, ACCA will introduce computer based exams on a phased basis. |
| 11 | Will the changes impact the cost of the taking the ACCA exams? | No student will be financially disadvantaged as a result of the changes. As now, fees will be published annually on the ACCA website. |
| 12 | Is the Master's in Professional Accounting pathway still available to me? | Yes. Students across the globe can continue to study towards the Master's at the same time as their ACCA Qualification. |
| 13 | Is the BSc option still available to me? | Yes. Students across the globe can continue to study towards the BSc at the same time as their ACCA Qualification. |
| 14 | Are the practical experience requirements changing? | The practical experience objectives were updated early in 2016 to better reflect real-world work demands. As part of that update, ACCA also launched a new recording tool to make sure it is easier for you to record your practical experience. So the practical experience requirements will remain as they are now. |
| 15 | Why is the ethics module changing? | Professional accountants need to demonstrate that they understand and can apply ethical behaviour in real-world work situations. And they must be capable of doing this in broader, more complex scenarios where integration with technical and professional skills is key. So in the Ethics and Professional Skills module - the first of its kind - you will meet a number of these real-world work scenarios to help you develop your professional and ethical skills. The new Ethics and Professional Skills module will also support you to exam success at Strategic Professional level. To take maximum advantage of the support provided by the module, you should complete it before attempting any exams at Strategic Professional level. |